be taken in consultation with all State Governments to open more colleges affiliated to Central and State Universities during the remaining part of the year 1991-92 and 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d). No, Sir. Colleges are generally established by State Governments or Private Trusts/Registered Societies in view of the educational requirements of a particular area/region, the availability of resources and other relevant factors.

The demand for admission to institutions of higher education is being met, apart from opening of new colleges, by enhancing the intake capacity of existing colleges, introduction of new courses and provision of alternate channels for higher education. Indira Gandhi National Open University has been entrusted with the responsibility for introduction and promotion of the Open University and Distance Education systems in the educational pattern of the country. Four State Open Universities, including one in Maharashtra, and 40 other Universities are offering courses through the distance education mode. Several Universities also permit external students, who study at home to appear in the examination.

[*Translation*]

Classified Forests in Rajasthan

2619. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the classified forest area out of the total area of Rajasthan;

(b) whether the non-forest areas are adversely affecting the ecology of the State; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for development of forests in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The classified forests in Rajasthan as per the 'India's Forests, 1987' are:

Reserve forests	13970 Sq. Km.
Protected forests	14170 Sq. Km.
Unclassed forests	3150 Sq. Km.
Total forest area	31290 Sq. Km.

(b) and (c). No data is available to indicate that the non-forest areas are adversely affecting the ecology of the State.

However, massive afforestation programme has been launched under the 20-point programme including Social Forestry Scheme

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme is under implementation to help the State for development of infrastructure for protection of forests against biotic interference.

[*English*]

Labour Ministers' Conference

2620. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of State Labour Ministers is proposed to be convened in September, 1991; and

(b) if so, the specific issues likely to be discussed at the conference?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). It has